

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1.-14. (canceled).

Claim 15. (previously presented) A duct assembly comprising:

- (a) a slip collar comprising (i) a tubular outer wall portion, (ii) a tubular inner wall portion, (iii) an intermediate portion disposed between the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion, (iv) a first slot region defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion, and (v) a second slot region defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion, wherein each of the tubular outer wall portion, the tubular wall inner portion, and the intermediate portion comprises a fiber reinforced plastic material, and wherein the first and second slot regions face away from each other, and wherein the slip collar is an integral, one-piece structure;
 - (b) a first duct including a first end inserted into the first slot region; and
 - (c) a second duct including a second end inserted into the second slot region,
- wherein the first end inserted into the first slot region and the second end inserted into the second slot region each have a constant diameter.

Claims 16-26. (canceled).

Claim 27. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 15 wherein the tubular outer portion includes apertures, and wherein set screws are disposed in the apertures, and wherein the first and second ducts also comprise a fiber reinforced plastic material.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 15 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a chemically resistant material and the tubular outer wall portion comprises a fire-resistant material.

Claim 29. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 15, wherein the tubular outer portion includes apertures, and wherein set screws are disposed in the apertures, and wherein the tubular outer wall portion comprises a cured phenolic resin.

Claim 30. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 29 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a chemically resistant material and the tubular outer wall portion comprises a fire-resistant material.

Claim 31. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 29 wherein a thickness of the outer wall portion is between about 3/16-inch to about 1-1/2 inches.

Claim 32. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 29 further comprising a first adhesive composition in the first slot region and a second adhesive composition in the second slot region, and wherein a thickness of the outer wall portion is between about 3/16-inch to about 1-1/2 inches.

Claim 33. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 32 wherein the inner wall portion and the outer wall portion comprise different polymeric materials.

Claim 34. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 32 wherein the inner wall portion and the outer wall portion comprise different materials, and wherein the slip collar is free of metal.

Claim 35. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 32 wherein the inner wall portion and the outer wall portion comprise different materials, and wherein the duct assembly further comprises set screws passing through the outer wall portion, wherein the set screws secure the slip collar to the first duct and the second duct.

Claim 36. (previously presented) A duct assembly comprising:
a slip collar comprising (i) a tubular outer wall portion, (ii) a tubular inner wall portion, (iii) an intermediate portion disposed between the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion, (iv) a slot region defined by the tubular outer wall portion and the tubular inner wall portion, wherein the tubular outer wall portion, the tubular wall inner portion, and the intermediate portion all comprise a fiber reinforced plastic material, and form an integral one-piece structure; and

a duct comprising a first end section, wherein the first end section of the duct is inserted into the slot region, and wherein the first end section has a constant diameter.

Claim 37. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 36 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a chemically resistant material and the tubular outer wall portion comprises a fire-resistant material.

Claim 38. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 36 wherein the slip collar has only one slot region.

Claim 39. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 36 wherein the tubular inner wall portion is shorter than the tubular outer wall portion.

Claim 40. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 36 wherein the tubular inner wall portion comprises a fluoropolymer material.

Claim 41. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 36 wherein the inner wall portion comprises a cured vinyl ester resin and the outer wall portion comprises a cured phenolic resin.

Claim 42. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 36 further comprising an adhesive composition in the slot region.

Claim 43. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 42 wherein the adhesive composition comprises a novalac or an epoxy resin.

Claim 44. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 36 wherein the slip collar is free of a metal.

Claim 45. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 36 wherein the fiber reinforced plastic material comprises chopped strand mat.

Claim 46. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 36 wherein the slip collar is formed first, and after the slip collar is formed, the first end of the duct is inserted into the slot.

Claim 47. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 15 wherein the slip collar is formed first, and wherein after the slip collar is formed, the first end of the first duct is inserted into the first slot region and the second end of the second duct is inserted into the second slot region.

Claim 48. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 15 wherein the slip collar is formed by a process comprising the steps of:

- applying a first mixture of resin and fabric material around a mandrel to form the tubular inner wall portion;

- positioning at least two spacer elements separated by a gap around the tubular inner wall portion;

- applying a second mixture of resin and fabric material around the tubular inner wall portion within the gap to form the intermediate portion;

- applying a third mixture of resin and fabric material around the intermediate portion and the spacer elements to form the tubular outer wall portion;

- cutting the tubular inner wall portion, the intermediate portion, the spacers and the tubular outer wall portion;

- removing the tubular inner wall portion, the intermediate portion, the spacer elements and the tubular outer wall portion from the mandrel; and,

removing the spacers.

Claim 49.(previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 48 wherein the first, second and third mixtures of resin and fabric are substantially identical.

Claim 50. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 48 wherein the first and second mixtures of resin and fabric are substantially identical.

Claim 51. (previously presented) The duct assembly of claim 48 wherein the second and third mixtures of resin and fabric are substantially identical.

Claim 52. (new) The duct assembly of claim 36 wherein the interior surface of the tubular outer wall portion and the surface of the tubular inner wall surface facing the slot region are smooth.

Claim 53. (new) The duct assembly of claim 15 wherein the fiber reinforced plastic material is impregnated with fibers made of a material selected from the group consisting of graphite, carbon and ceramic.

Claim 54. (new) The duct assembly of claim 15 wherein the slip collar is curved.

Claim 55. (new) The duct assembly of claim 29 wherein the cured phenolic resin comprises phenol-aldehyde.

Claim 56. (new) The duct assembly of claim 29 wherein the cured phenolic resin comprises resorcinol-aldehyde.